

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**



RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Order of the Long Leaf Pine Recipients Report by Chuck Littlewood K4HF, ARRL Liaison

Congratulations to our 2012 RARSfest honorees, Bill Finch W4EHF and Weldon Fields W4AJT, getting the NC State Order of the Long Leaf Pine Recognition. They were recognized for their 40+ years of service (each!) in traffic handling and public service to the citizens of North Carolina. Bill is 100 years old and Weldon is 98. Congratulations, gentlemen.



Left to right: Bill Finch W4EHF, Jim Boehner N2ZZ, Weldon Fields W4AJT, Bill Morine N2COP, Dennis Bodson W4PWF, Tim Slay N4IB, and John Covington W4CC.

Next RARS Meeting: May 1

7:30 PM: "Emergency Communications"
by Tom Brown N4TAB. VE Testing is
also available this evening.

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church

4400 Buffaloe Road

Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

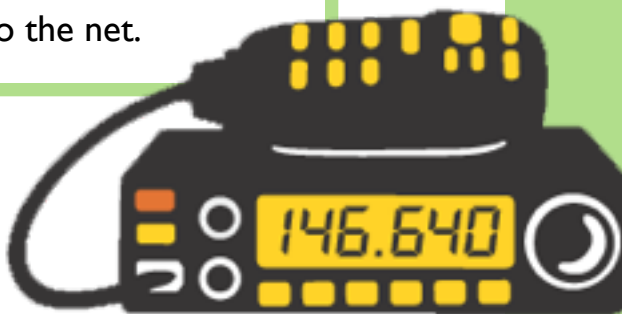
Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

146.640 & 443.625 (88.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$14 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

May Birthdays

Ken	KK4ETP	5/1
Ron	KJ4DNS	5/4
Larry	W4WIV	5/5
Liz	KO4CK	5/5
Larry	KG4FIQ	5/5
Rob	KK4ETW	5/6
Charlene	KJ4SOZ	5/6
Alanna	K4AAC	5/8
Franco	KE4IBB	5/8
Hank	K4HM	5/8
Travis	KJ4DBA	5/8
Brian	KA9QJT	5/10
Nancy	KBIHIX	5/10
Bob	NCIX	5/11
Chuck	AE4CD	5/12
Ed	WA4PEN	5/13
Victor	KJ4ZJE	5/15
Bob	KI4ZNM	5/15
Chris	KE4TMO	5/17
Cam	KU4VY	5/17
Larry	K1ZW	5/20
Bill	AK4BL	5/20
Bob	KB4RGC	5/21
Lyn	WA4GEH	5/24
Joe	K4UOO	5/24
Clarence	KI4WTT	5/26
Donald	KJ4TTP	5/27
Courtney	KI4HOS	5/27

March 2012

RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 495	Special Interest Nets:
Traffic: 42/29	Checkins: 110
Minutes: 590	Minutes: 550
Sessions: 31	Sessions: 10

Upcoming Hamfests

- 5/5 Upstate Hamfest (SC Section Convention)
Spartanburg, SC
<http://www.upstatehamfest.org/>
- 5/12 Rockingham CO ARC Swapfest
Reidsville, NC
<http://www.rcarc.com/swap12.pdf>
- 5/12 Heart of Georgia Hamfest
Byron, GA
<http://www.heartofgeorgiahamfest.com/>
- 5/18- Dayton Hamvention (ARRL Nat'l Conv.)
5/20 Trotwood, OH
<http://www.hamvention.org/>
- 5/26 DurHamFest
Bahama, NC
<http://dfma.org>
- 5/27 Memorial Day Hamfest
West Friendship, MA
<http://marylandfm.org/Hamfest.htm>

New RARS Members

Bob Chick	AH2X
Grady Harper	AJ4YA
Rodion Kornienko	KC8FLD
Audie Mealer	No License
Deborah Mealer	No License
Scott Olson	KJ4DAT
John Peterson	NC4JP
Frank Pleshe	KK4IPX
Sarah Poverud	KK4HAS

President's Corner

Column by Karl Bowman W4CHX, RARS President

I had a great time at RARSFest and it is hoped that you did, too! I enjoyed setting up on Friday morning and it was interesting to see the Jim Graham Building become transformed into RARSFest by that evening. The RARS dinner was excellent and the Wuoff Hong ceremony was well attended. I spent about 10 hours at RARSFest on Saturday, but it sure passed quickly! It was great to work in the stage and information table area, see old and new friends, visit the flea market, and purchase those "can't live without" items from the vendors.

The success of RARSFest would not have occurred without the hard work of many individuals. Thanks for everything that you did for RARSFest!

Please don't forget about the many public service events that are occurring over the next 3 months. So, visit the RARS website or contact John AI4RT at ai4rt@hotmail.com to volunteer for these events.

It's getting close – ARRL Field Day 2012 will be here in less than 60 days! This year, Field Day activities will be occurring on Friday-Sunday, June 22-24. Bob W4TTX and the band captains are working hard to assure another successful Field Day; and, David KF4VXJ is getting donations to support the event. As always, volunteers are still needed. Please contact Bob W4TTX or David KF4VXJ if you can provide assistance with Field Day.

The next RARS meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 1. In addition to a VE testing session, Tom Brown, N4TAB will be our speaker and his presentation will be focused on amateur radio and emergency service. Please don't forget to attend – it will be great to see you!

RARSFest 2012 Prize Winners

Report by Greg Seamster KE4PAX, RARS Treasurer

Thanks to everyone who participated, and congratulations to our winners. We look forward to seeing you at the next RARSFest.

Time	Winner	Prize Amount
10am	Gwen Boyles (KF4EUT)	\$100
11am	Darrell Massengill (KC4UQI)	\$100
12pm	Sumer Suleyman (No Call)	\$100
1pm	George Ward (W4BHQ)	\$100
2pm	Roger Allen (WB4CWW)	\$100
3pm	Samuel Hawkins (K4HXV)	\$400
Fox Hunt	Sam Jenkins (KI4TRG)	\$30

What is Field Day?

Article by Bob Starkenburg W4TTX, Field Day Chair

Field Day is a picnic, a camp-out, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN! ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. This year Field Day is on June 23 and 24. As in the past, we will have the privilege of operating from the farm of Jim and Beth Carroll (N4CAE and KF4QMR) in Apex, North Carolina. It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public.

This year we are introducing 2 new activities:

On Saturday, June 23 at 10:00 am, we will have our first ever **Antenna Launcher Contest**. Everyone is invited to come out and show off their antenna launching gear. We will have 2 categories – one for slingshot style launchers, and another for power assisted launchers. Entrants will compete for awards for both distance and accuracy. Check the RARS website for the official rules and further details.

We will also be introducing a **Operators Drawing** for anyone who operates on site for an hour or more. The names of all qualifying operators will be put in a bucket, and one name will be selected at the RARS August meeting to receive a special prize (to be determined). You need not be present at the meeting to win. Check the RARS website for more details.

Here is the agenda:

On Friday June 22, beginning at 2:00 pm, volunteers as well as band captains and operators, will assemble to begin setting up their tents, campers, and gear. Duties will include antenna and feed line set up, and station set up for each of the bands. Preliminary equipment testing will also be on the agenda. There are plans in the works to have a Friday evening dinner on site again this year as a reward for everyone's hard work.

We assemble on Saturday around noon for final equipment checks and instructions. At that time we will determine our operating class based on the number of transmitters on site. Final instructions will be given then everyone settles in for the start of the actual



contest at 2:00 pm. The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions. For the next 24 hours the air will be filled with the non-stop hum of generators, the crackle of radios, the lilting tones of CW, and a cacophony of voices calling “CQ Field Day”. We typically operate on 15M, 20M, 40M, 80M, and 160M - both phone and CW. We also have stations running Digital modes (PSK) as well as a satellite station. Finally, there is the GOTA station. GOTA is short for “Get-On-The-Air”. It’s a great chance for unlicensed kids of all ages, as well as inactive hams to get on the radio.

One of the highlights of the RARS Field Day is the traditional Saturday evening catered meal of fried chicken and pork BBQ. That is a meal not to be missed! There is also a very nice lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs on Sunday (hams do love to eat!).

The event ends at 2:00 pm on Sunday. The radios go quiet, as do the generators. Electronic logs are submitted by the band captains. The antennas are taken down, and everyone cleans up, packs up, and heads home for a well deserved rest.

Why do we do all this? We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities. But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Besides, it’s just plain fun!

If you have never participated in Field Day, please come out and join your fellow club members. Stay for an hour, or for the whole event - it’s up to you. And remember, you are not limited to your class operating privileges during Field Day - you will be operating under the privileges authorized for license held by the control operator, and for Field Day, that usually means you can operate using Extra Class privileges. It’s a great opportunity to get your feet wet in HF.

There is more information about Field Day on the RARS website. See you there!

Minutes of the April 3, 2012 RARS General Meeting

Minutes by Bob Chew KI4YXM, RARS Secretary

1. Guests (pre-meeting announcement): Karl W4CHX introduced the guest attendee: Joseph Pingenot, NX0Q. He encouraged the RARS Members to greet and welcome our guests.
2. Call to order: Karl W4CHX called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM. There were 66 people in attendance.
3. Approval of minutes: The Minutes of the RARS General Membership meeting on March 6, 2012 were approved.
4. Vice President's report (CJ KJ4OBQ): Deferred to program introduction.
5. Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): We currently have 309 members. Chuck K4HF has secured a donation of \$966.00 from an estate sale. If any RARS member has any questions regarding income and expenses, please contact Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX for further information.
6. Announcements (Karl W4CHX):
 - a. RARS Dinner: second Tuesday, (4/10/12), 6:30 PM, Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue (Hwy 70), monitor the 146.64 repeater on Tuesday (4/10) for any update information.
 - b. RARS Board meeting: third Tuesday (4/17/12), 7:00 PM, Triangle Radio Reading Service, 211 E. Six Forks Road, Suite 103; any RARS member is welcome to attend. For more information, contact any RARS officer.
 - c. After meeting gathering: The after meeting gathering will be held at Applebee's, Six Forks and Wake Forest Roads (by the Costco)
 - d. Upcoming hamfests (local): RARSfest 2012, Raleigh, NC (4/7); Catawba Valley Hamfest, Morganton, NC (4/21); Hampton Roads Springfest, Chesapeake, VA (4/29); Upstate Hamfest (SC Section Convention), Spartanburg, SC (5/5); and, Rockingham CO ARC Swapfest, Reidsville, NC (5/12). Please see the Exciter or the ARRL website for information on other hamfests.
 - e. Guests: Any additional guests were introduced: Joseph NX0Q

7. Reports from RARS Board members and others:

- a. FCC Study of amateur radio (Gary KN4AQ): Gary Pearce, KN4AQ reported that Congress had directed the FCC to study and solicit public comments regarding antenna restrictions via government and by deed restrictions and covenants. The FCC must review importance of emergency communications and how antenna impediments will affect enhanced radio communications. The public has until May 17th to file comments with the FCC. He also reviewed the steps the ARRL is taking to gather input.
- b. RARSfest and Public Service (John AI4RT): John Snellen, AI4RT reported that RARSfest will be held this Saturday (4/7). Public service activities include the Special Olympics (6/1-2).
- c. Field Day (Bob W4TTX): Bob W4TTX reported on Field Day planning. Field Day will be held on June 22nd and 23rd. There will be an antenna launching competition with two classes of launchers: 1) slingshot; and, 2) powered. Competition will be for distance, accuracy, and combination of the two.
- d. RARSfest Social Dinner (Ken KI4OTO): Ken KI4OTO reported that the RARSfest Social Dinner set-up starts at 10:00 AM on Friday, April 6th. It was recommended that RARS members bring their food items in disposable containers. The RARSfest Volunteers Picnic is scheduled for April 21st at the White Oak pavilion at Lake Crabtree Park.
- e. RARS Technical and Traders Net (Alan AB4OZ): Alan AB4OZ reported that Gary KN4AQ will talk about repeaters, HT's, and on-the-air etiquette.
- f. Order of the Long Leaf Pine for W4AJT and W4EHF (Chuck W3WZN): Chuck W3WZN announced that Governor Beverly Perdue has bestowed the Order of The Long Leaf Pine Award to Greensboro's Weldon Fields, W4AJT, and Bill Finch, W4EHF, of Greenville. The awards will be presented at the ARRL open forum at RARSfest (4/7).
- g. Presentation on LoTW: It was announced that Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, Assistant Manager, Membership and Volunteer Programs, ARRL, will be speaking on the use and status of Logbook of the World (LoTW) at RARSfest (4/7).

h. Help needed in Youth Lounge (Mike KB7NLA): Mike KB7NLA announced that volunteers are needed to help in the Youth Lounge at RARSfest (4/7).

8. Replacement of building at Bayleaf repeater site (Karl W4CHX, Cliff W4FT, and Jack N6UYB): Karl W4CHX reported that the building at the Bayleaf repeater site needs to be replaced. At the RARS Board meeting on March 20, 2012, this matter was discussed and the following motion was made and approved, "That the Board recommends to the membership: that an additional \$6,000 from the general fund be added to the repeater line item. The funds are for replacing the existing building at the Bayleaf repeater site."

This was discussed by membership. Cliff W4FT and Karl W4CHX answered questions. A motion was made by Jack KI4YXK, and seconded by Tom K2UCU, to approve the RARS Board recommendation. The motion passed.

9. Drawing: The winners were: Joanne AK4RT; and, Henry WB2AGA

10. Program: The program was entitled, "Time and Frequency", which was presented by Justin Pinnix, AJ4MJ.

11. Adjournment: Karl W4CHX adjourned the meeting at 8:58 PM.
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Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The Wake County ARES Net

meets Thursdays at 8:30 PM on the 146.640 repeater. We provide discussion training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American

Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM.

This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

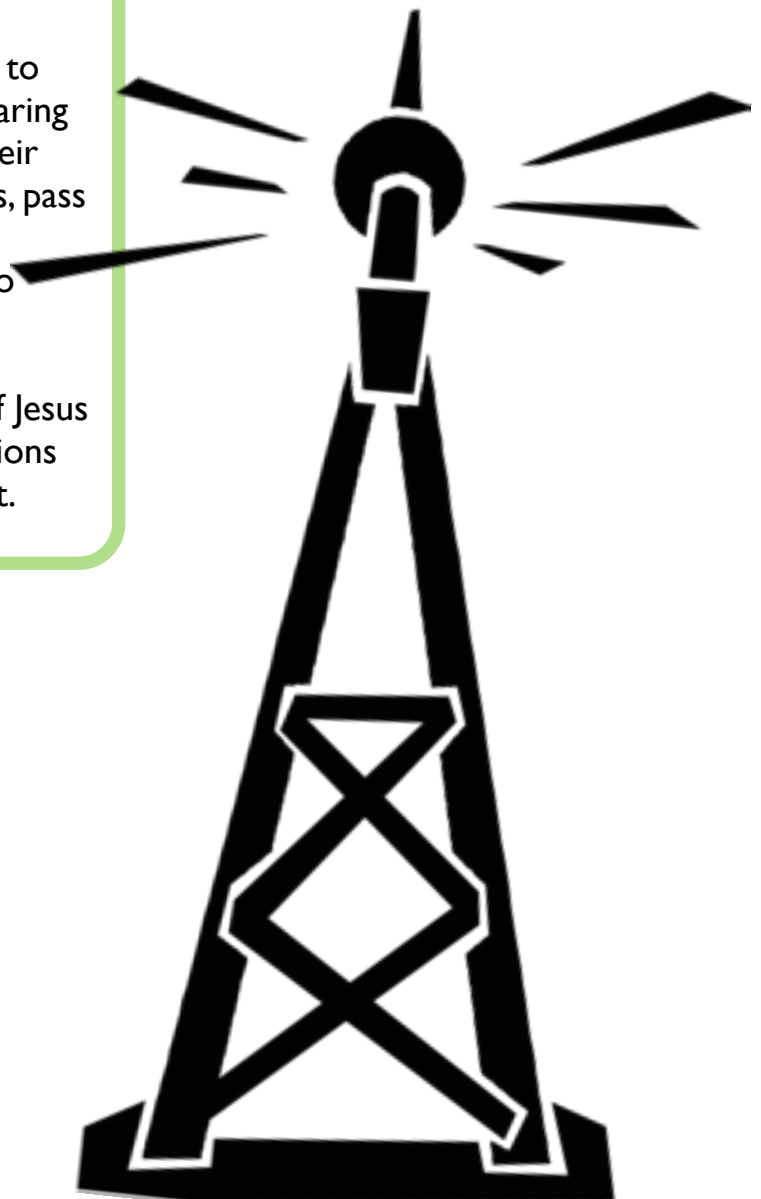
Local Amateur Radio Nets

The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 at 8:30 PM.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



RARS Classifieds

Looking to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at <http://rars.org/classifieds.php>.

RARS members are welcome to post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

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